

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6 and a new Figs. 7a, 7b, and 8. These sheets, which include Figs. 5-6, replace the original sheets including Figs. 5 and 6. Fig. 6 has been amended to show the mounting of outer sleeve 98 onto drill bit 100 and the countersink 122. Figs. 7a and 7b are added to show different sized alignment pieces 116', 116" and Fig. 8 is added to show a deformable elastomer.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet and new sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed July 18, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 18-24 and 37 are pending in this application, with claim 18 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to because the “first and second sleeve”, “resilient elastomer”, “plurality of alignment pieces” and the “countersink bore” are not shown. Fig. 6 has been amended to show the first and second sleeve and countersink bore. Figs. 7a and 7b are added to show the plurality of alignment pieces. Fig. 8 is added to show the resilient elastomer. In view of the amendments, the objection to the drawings should now be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner states that it is still unclear how the first and second sleeve of claim 18 can be implemented in the embodiment of Fig. 6. The specification and drawings now clearly show and describe how the first and second sleeves are implemented in the embodiment of Fig. 6. The original application referred to “outer sleeve 98”. This is the same terminology used for “outer sleeve 34” shown in Fig. 1. Thus, it follows that outer sleeve 98 is mounted to the drill bit in the manner of outer sleeve 34. The notion that outer sleeve 98 is mounted as outer sleeve 34 is further evident in that paragraph 0027, lines 11-12, describes setting the position of outer sleeve 98 relative to the drill bit 100. The amendments to the specification and drawings clarify how the outer sleeve 98 is mounted on the drill bit 100. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 18-24 and 37 should now be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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